

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An inkjet recording apparatus, comprising:

a housing;

an inkjet recording head arranged to eject ink downwardly onto a recording sheet;

a sheet feeding mechanism configured to feed a portion of the recording sheet, a first side of which has been printed on by the inkjet recording head, to a location outside of the housing along a substantially horizontal straight path to expedite drying of the ink, the sheet feeding mechanism keeping the sheet substantially straight from where printed on by the inkjet recording head until the sheet reaches the location outside of the housing, and the sheet feeding mechanism [[and]] configured to reverse an orientation of the recording sheet, having the first side which has been printed thereon, by conveying the recording sheet through a location which is below the recording head and then back to the recording head so that the second side of the recording sheet is printed thereon by the inkjet recording head; and

a controller configured to control the sheet feeding mechanism to maintain the recording sheet at the location outside of the housing for a predetermined time period to allow the ink printed on the first side of the sheet to dry before printing on the second side of the sheet.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An inkjet recording apparatus, comprising:

a housing;

an inkjet recording head arranged to eject ink downwardly onto a recording sheet;

a first sheet path configured to transport sheets printed by said ink jet recording head along a straight and horizontal path so that at least a portion of the sheets extend outside of the housing, the first sheet path configured to keep the sheet substantially straight from where printed on by the inkjet recording head until said at least a portion of the sheet extends outside of the housing;

a second sheet path including a switchback mechanism configured to reverse an orientation of the recording sheet printed on a first surface by transporting the recording sheet through a location which is below the inkjet recording head and then back to the inkjet recording head so that a second side of the recording sheet is printed thereon by the inkjet recording head; and

a controller configured to control a transportation of the recording sheet through the first and second sheet paths to maintain the recording sheet at the location outside of the housing for a predetermined time period to allow ink printed on the recording sheet first surface to dry before returning the recording sheet printed on the first surface back into the housing and through the second sheet path in order for the inkjet recording head to print on the second surface of the recording sheet.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An inkjet printing apparatus, comprising:

a tray configured to hold recording sheets;

an inkjet head which emits ink downwardly;

a pickup roller which removes a sheet from the tray;

a roller ~~which reverses~~ arranged to assist in reversing an orientation of the sheet conveyed by the pickup roller and ~~transports~~ transport the sheet towards the inkjet head which emits ink downwardly onto the sheet;

a substantially straight and substantially horizontal paper path which receives the sheet having wet ink thereon through which the paper is conveyed such that the sheet having the wet ink remains substantially straight;

ejection rollers which are part of the substantially straight and substantially horizontal paper path which convey at least a portion of the sheet to an outside of the inkjet printing apparatus, the substantially straight and substantially horizontal paper path configured to keep the sheet substantially straight and substantially horizontal from where printed on by the inkjet head until the ejection rollers; and

a reversing path which receives the sheet having one side printed thereon by the inkjet head and reverses the orientation of the sheet and conveys the sheet back towards the inkjet head, at least a portion of the reversing path being disposed away from the substantially straight and substantially horizontal paper path in a substantially vertical direction ~~towards the tray.~~

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

a sensor disposed between the inkjet head and the ejection rollers configured to sense the sheet.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

a controller, operationally connected to the sensor, configured to control the ejection rollers to hold at the least the portion of the sheet having wet ink outside of the inkjet printing apparatus.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:  
said at least a portion of the reversing path which is disposed away from the substantially straight and substantially horizontal paper path in a substantially vertical direction ~~towards the tray~~ is lower than the substantially straight and substantially horizontal paper path.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:  
the controller is configured to hold the at least the portion of the sheet having wet ink outside of the inkjet printing apparatus for different durations.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:  
the controller is configured to hold the at least the portion of the sheet having wet ink outside of the inkjet printing apparatus for different durations, depending on an amount of ink on the sheet.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:  
the controller is a means for controlling the holding at the least the portion of the sheet having wet ink outside of the inkjet printing apparatus.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:

the controller is a means for controlling the holding at the least the portion of the sheet having wet ink outside of the inkjet printing apparatus by controlling a rotation of the ejection rollers.

Claims 13-17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the controller is configured to control the sheet feeding mechanism to maintain the recording sheet at the location outside of the housing for the predetermined time period which varies.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein:

the controller is configured to control the sheet feeding mechanism to maintain the recording sheet at the location outside of the housing for the predetermined time period which varies depending on an amount of ink on the recording sheet.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein:

the controller is configured to control the transportation to maintain the recording sheet at the location outside of the housing for the predetermined time period which varies.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein:

the controller is configured to control the transportation to maintain the recording sheet at the location outside of the housing for the predetermined time period which varies depending on an amount of ink on the recording sheet.